

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel withdrawn claims 111, 112, 145, 146, 177-180, 182-183, 215-216, drawn to a non-elected invention. These claims were withdrawn without traverse in the response filed February 14, 2008, in response to the restriction requirement filed January 14, 2008.

Please renumber claims 1, 40, 49, 50, 52, 57, 97, 106-107, 109, 246, 247 as 1-12.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the species of breaking the attractive force or bonds between the first set of molecules and the second set of molecules by using a solution having a high ionic strength would be novel because although Guire et al. teach denaturing the nucleic acids in order to disassociate the strands, this would only be accomplished in solutions having a low ionic strength. Therefore, applying a solution with a high ionic strength would teach away from the denaturing the nucleic acids of Guire et al., as evidenced by Pellicciari et al. [Pellicciari et al., Methods of denaturation and renaturation of DNA in interphasic chromatin: cytochemical quantitative analysis by methyl green staining, 1978, Histochem Journal, 10: pp.213-222] (see p. 214, lines 3-20), and US 2004/0106140 (see para.

0161) and US 2003/0108913 (see para. 0123). The same would be true for replacing the nucleic acids of Guire et al. with proteins or antibodies, as high ionic strength solution would promote aggregation (see US 2003/0022169, para. 0005 and US 2002/0127732, para. 0018), and therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would not have found it obvious to use high ionic strength solutions to break the bonds between the ligands of Guire et al.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nelson Yang whose telephone number is (571)272-0826. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Shibuya can be reached on (571)272-0806. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

4. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nelson Yang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1641